**A Focus on Narrative Genres and Stages**

**Narratives, one of the story genres explore human experience in order to entertain, move and instruct their readers, listeners or viewers. They create a possible world in which unexpected things happen to individuals and where readers become involved in the conflicts or problems these characters confront and resolve.**

**In order to achieve these purposes, narratives in Western English speaking cultures tend to have three essential stages.**

**\_Orientation- (**where some background to the characters and setting is provided

\_**Complication-**(where some problem is identified)

-**Resolution-**(Where the problem is resolved)

The following text is a sample of a simple narrative written by a year 8 student. Pay attention to the three labelled stages. Make an attempt to annotate the content and consider the similarities in the text “Cloud busting” Consider how language is used to provide a context for the reader. You will also need to create an authentic context in your response when you begin your folio piece.

**Jack’s Narrative, “Never Again”**

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| **Orientation** | **Dad, Grandad, my friend Sam and I had planned the trip up North for months and now it was a reality. We’d packed the combivan with everything we were likely to need –surfboards, fishing and camping gear, loads of goodies to eat and to Mum’s amazement, even sunscreen.** |
| **Complication** | **The trip was uneventful till we hit the border. Sure, the screeching of the fanbelt outperformed Grandpa’s snoring, but that was just background noise to a kid like me who grew up in a household with seven others. After only five hours on the road, Sam who was an only child , went bright red in the face and started shaking violently. I thought he was pulling my leg until he let out an almighty scream. “Mr Kirk, stop, right here!” That’s when we realised that Sam was a chronic claustrophobic and couldn’t bear high pitched sounds. His mum hadn’t warned us that travelling in a noisy, cramped, overcrowded and badly tuned Volkswagen was likely to bring an episode.** |
| **Resolution** | **We arranged for Sam to take the train home –he said he’d prefer**  **That to travelling one more meter in the confined space of the noisy Volksie. As I helped him with his backpack, he whimpered , “Sorry I didn’t tell you. I thought I had this licked .” He ran towards the station in a cloud of red dust, at a speed I didn’t think him capable of. We’re still friends , but we stick to quiet outdoor walks these days!** |

**A Template for Planning the Narrative Genre**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Orientation** |  |
| **Complication** |  |
| **Resolution** |  |

**It is important to remember that the components of well- formed narratives do not always occur in the order above and innovative story tellers often play with the staging of the story and with reader expectations in creative ways. We often read stories which actually start with the complication. See diagram below. (Whichever the case you may choose a traditional format or try to experiment with something more innovative.) Have fun!!**

complication orientation Resolution

Or

Orientation Complication 1 R Resolution 1 Complication 2 resolution 2